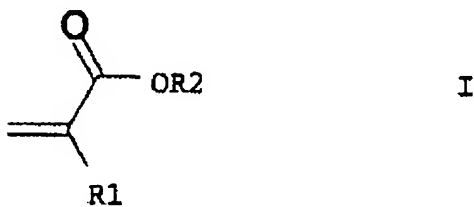


APPENDIX I

Claim Amendments :

Amend claim 1 as set forth in the following listing of claims:

1. *(currently amended)* A thixotropic agent comprising as components
from 0.1 to 30% by weight of at least one ethylene terpolymer wax synthesized
from
from 80 to 99.9% by weight of ethylene, from 0.1 to 20% by
weight of at least two comonomers comprising
as first comonomer from 1 to 99% by weight of at least one C₃-C₁₂
alkenecarboxylic acid and
as second comonomer from 99 to 1% by weight of at least one
ester of the formula I



where R¹ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₁₀
alkyl, C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, and C₆-C₁₄ aryl
and R² is selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-
C₁₂ cycloalkyl, and C₆-C₁₄ aryl,

from 5 to 70% by weight of at least one first solvent incompatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax, and

from 5 to 85% by weight of at least one solvent compatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax and with said first solvent(s).

2. *(original)* A thixotropic agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first comonomer is acrylic acid.
3. *(previously presented)* A thixotropic agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein R¹ is hydrogen or methyl and R² is methyl in formula I.
4. *(previously presented)* A thixotropic agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ethylene copolymer wax is synthesized from 90 to 99% by weight of ethylene and from 10 to 1% by weight of at least two comonomers comprising from 30 to 70% by weight of at least one C₃-C₁₂ alkenecarboxylic acid as first comonomer and from 70 to 30% by weight of at least one ester of the formula I as second comonomer.
5. *(previously presented)* A process for preparing a thixotropic agent as claimed in claim 1, which comprises first dissolving the ethylene terpolymer wax in one or more solvents compatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax and then adding at least one solvent incompatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax.
6. *(previously presented)* A coating material comprising at least one thixotropic agent as claimed in claim 1.

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7. *(previously presented)* A metallic paint comprising at least one thixotropic agent as claimed in claim 1.
8. *(previously presented)* A process for preparing a coating material or metallic paint by mixing in a thixotropic agent as claimed in claim 1.
9. *(previously presented)* A surface coated with a coating material or metallic paint comprising at least one thixotropic agent as claimed in claim 1.